## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office

February 27, 1998 LB 1112

But mental health without substance abuse, I can tell you a little bit about, because I worked at Richard Young Psychiatric Hospital for five years, I started the first dual diagnosis unit in the state for adolescents, and them places are now closing Third party pay for psychiatric disorders is a shame. And I don't think it's all just insurance companies. part of it is that it's just not equal pay for the type of disorder there is. Psychiatric disorders aren't considered the same as mental disorders, as medical disorders, they have never got the same pay. And today, people, believe me, psychiatric disorders are as treatable as most of your medical disorders, but they need to have coverage. And people are going without coverage. And when I say go without coverage, that doesn't mean they don't have some coverage, that means they can't afford with the deductible and the self-pay the part that they need. I don't believe that this bill is the answer. I'm support it, but we need to really take a look at this whole field and this whole area. And I believe that this bill would bring us that vehicle. And it doesn't have to be the same when it comes out, but we need to get something on this floor that takes care of the other medical disorders. If you had a tumor on your brain, it would be considered medical. But depressed, it's not medical, it's psychiatric. And I think we need to do what we can to bring these closer together sure that the people have coverage for all of their body and not just parts. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I would like to thank Senator Bohlke, she came to me immediately and I knew her position on pulling bills out of committee. And the committee structure is sacred with many people in the body. But she did make some good points. And I'm sorry that I didn't pick up on that first, because I studied this issue for so long, I thought everybody knew that. Then she brought up some points that I had neglected to tell about, you don't know that you're sick when you have this insurance policy, and that was brought up time and time again in our many interim studies that we had, when everybody did come to the table and everybody did get underneath the tent and talk about this issue. Most of those illnesses do not strike until probably in their twenties, early